
Our Paper: Serving the Alternative Community

Periodicals

Fall 10-1984

Our Paper 10/1984

Our Paper

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Our Paper

FREE

A
VOICE
FOR
LESBIANS
AND
GAY MEN
IN MAINE

Vol. 2, No. 2

October 1984

News Commentary

Makes You Wonder, Doesn't It?

By Elze

We should be asking, "Why hasn't the National Organization for Women's Political Action Committee in Washington, D.C. endorsed Barry Hobbins in Maine's First Congressional District race against incumbent John McKernan?" Why is it that NOW-PAC has not endorsed the candidate who supports the ERA, reproductive choice, and lesbian and gay rights legislation, three of N.O.W.'s four fundamental tenets, while the incumbent supports the ERA, reproductive choice, but not lesbian and gay rights legislation? (N.O.W.'s fourth fundamental tenet is the empowerment of women of color, and most of us know where the current Republican Administration stands on that one.) Why is it that NOW-PAC hasn't endorsed Hobbins over a candidate who has said, on a number of occasions to gay activists in Maine, that he does not feel gay men and lesbians belong in locker rooms as coaches supervising children? (We all know the hidden message behind that one.) We attempted to ask them just those questions.

The morning of September 20, this reporter called N.O.W. in Washington, D.C. and asked to speak to Judy Goldsmith, N.O.W.'s Executive Director and the head of NOW-PAC, being sure to convey that I was from the gay and lesbian press in Maine and that I wanted to speak with her about the Hobbins/McKernan race. I was put

through to another staffperson who told me Goldsmith was out and I could leave a message. I left a message and then proceeded to ask for Mary Jean Collins, N.O.W.'s Vice President-Action and also a member of NOW-PAC. After hesitating a bit, the staffperson then said, "Well, I really have to process this through," which I took to mean, "We'll have to figure out who, if anybody, should be the one to speak to you." I replied, "Since you have to process this through, I'll give you my list," and I reeled off to her Judy Goldsmith, Mary Jean Collins, Reva Seybolt (the liaison from NOW-PAC to Maine NOW) and Lois Reckitt (Vice President-Executive and former Maine resident), and stated that I'd appreciate hearing from one of them within the next hour. She did kindly let me know that she couldn't guarantee such a timely response. I told her my deadline (for the paper) was within these next two days.

I waited, and waited, and waited — for several hours. Hearing from no one, I called back. I again gave the woman my list of people and she informed me they were all out to lunch, except for Reckitt who was out for the day. I left a number where I could be reached that afternoon and the following day. Still hearing from no one, I called back on September 21, again reeled off my list, and told her I had a 5 P.M. deadline and that I really wanted to speak with someone before I wrote my article. The day ended with no call.

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Women Leaflet Califia's Talk

by Elze

Three women leafletted attendees at Pat Califia's recent talk to register their opposition to Califia's presence in Portland Friday evening, September 14. Author of *Sapphisty: A Book on Lesbian Sexuality*, writer of The Advocate Advisor column, and one of the original founders of Samois, a Lesbian S&M collective in San Francisco, Califia spoke at the University of Southern Maine as part of the Autumnfest Celebration sponsored by Harbor Masters, Inc. and Gay People's Alliance.

The reason for the leafletting, according to one of its organizers, was "to give support for people who might want to disagree. I feel that within the feminist movement it's been a real intimidating thing to be able to disagree. We're not making any kind of moral statement as to rightness and wrongness. We want to help the debate."

One of the statements distributed signed by eleven women, stated, in part, "We feel...that the argument that S&M is a manifestation of the most oppressive of 'male sex' is correct...We point out that what Pat Califia calls for in part is basically a liberal stance toward S&M — one of acceptance and tolerance. We say taht there is a difference between acceptance, tolerance, and support of individuals and acceptance, tolerance and support

of S&M as part of the women's movement." Another statement, signed by two women, read, in part, "We are against her promotion of sadomasochism for we cannot rationalize violence of any sort against any woman...Califia does not speak to the majority of lesbians regarding our sexuality. And this Autumnfest is not a celebration of our gay and lesbian life."

Kathryn Baptista, one of the leafletters and owner of Wise Women Books in Portland criticized Autumnfest for its "heavy emphasis on S&M to the exclusion of other alternatives" and its "lack of consciousness of women's issues." Baptista went on to say, "I would have no problem with Califia being here if there was more of a balance in points of view."

Though most of those in attendance appeared unruffled by the leafletting, Kim Anderson of Gay People's Alliance felt it was "very unfair," claiming, "These people clearly are not informed and I don't think anybody has grounds to pass judgments on people unless they're informed."

Carol Sipe, one of approximately 135 people at Califia's talk, echoed what appeared to be the sentiments of many people present: "My feelings about the leaflets are they are just as important as being able to have a forum for Pat Califia to come and talk. People should have the right to speak their minds — Period."

photo: Charlie Ridlon



Apuzzo: You Can Make a Difference

By Fred Berger

Virginia Apuzzo wowed us again with another impassioned plea for our "taking control of our lives".

Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, spoke September 18 at First Parish Church in the final event of Autumnfest Week. She told the crowd of 200 people that she was here "to pay respects to a community still in mourning and to share that mourning." "Something that happens to one of us happens to us all. We are a part of 'we' and we were unjustly attacked," she said. Apuzzo said that she was also here to celebrate the birth of Maine's new statewide non-partisan gay and lesbian political organization, calling it the "next stage in our dynamic growth".

Speaking of Ronald Reagan's alliance with New Right evangelists, Apuzzo said, "We face a constant assault on the dignity of our persons by people who would have us believe they speak the word of God. This administration has legitimized the most ungodly group of people..." She called Jerry Falwell a "preacher of hate" and said that the anti-gay climate that these people create, particularly through direct mail appeals, results in "young people thinking they can push a man off a bridge." To Reagan she asked, "Do you understand what your use of these people has done to our people?"

Apuzzo cited statistics from the recent NGTF Anti-Gay and Lesbian Violence Survey and said that there are two ways to fight against anti-gay violence: through political organizing and through education. To show the potential power of gay and lesbian voters, Virginia displayed a chart from U.S. News and World Report which showed that the estimated 17 million gay voters is one of the largest voting groups — twice the number of Hispanic voters and just one million less than organized labor. She said that in Maine in 1980 Ronald Reagan won by only 9,000 votes — just a fraction of the number of gay and lesbian voters in the state.

Virginia emphasized that political power must be accompanied by education. As an example of how far we have to go in educating people she cited

a recent experience with her own mother. On a visit to her mother's home, she brought along several very positive news clippings about her latest achievements. After pursuing them her mother said, "Yes, but when are you going to do something for people?" Virginia said, "If my own mother doesn't consider us 'people'..., we have a long way to go."

In concluding, Apuzzo made an appeal for our involvement in our movement. She said, "The potential to respond to conscience is there. That is what our movement is about...Each one has the power to keep this movement going. No matter how insignificant you think your life is, you can create a significance. I urge you to use your passion to create a significance."

Following the speech Robin Lambert presented Apuzzo with three checks. Two, for the NGTF Anti Gay/Lesbian Violence Project, came from money raised at the Portland memorial rally for Charlie Howard and from the Autumnfest dinner. The third was for NGTF memberships collected by Seacoast Gay Men, Harbor Masters, and Gay People's Alliance. They totalled nearly one thousand dollars. In thanking us for the money, Apuzzo promised to return to help raise money for the new bipartisan political organization. She said, "I will frisk every one of you and I hope half of you will enjoy it."

In a brief late-evening interview in Virginia Apuzzo's hotel room, Diane Elze, Charlie Ridlon, and I spoke with her on a few selected topics. Excerpts from that conversation follow:

"Behind the scenes was wonderful... Geraldine Ferraro was chair of the platform committee and I was a member of the committee. It was my function to push the issue as far as I could push it and it was her function to be as mainstream as possible."

When Gerry Ferraro started going public saying, 'I want a thematic platform', I met with her and told her that was unacceptable. Then I went to the press and told them. I essentially said that thematic phrases like 'freedom and justice for all' had never meant us and we had no guarantee that the

continued on page 11

LETTERS

The following letter was sent to a major newspaper, but refused because the author could not have his name printed:

Hart Editorial

To the editor:

This is in reference to your syndicated columnist, Jeffrey Hart, and his item in the Saturday, August 18, 1984 issue entitled "The gay aggression".

Mr. Hart finds it offensive Gays are beginning to express themselves in order to gain certain rights granted by the United States Constitution concerning "all men". When I use the term "men" here, I refer the same exact way the Constitution does — to all humankind. I could do a treatise on that topic, but Mr. Hart probably would not appreciate it. He would say I am being aggressive.

Mr. Hart cites certain people in San Francisco — notably "Sister Boom Boom". Without going into something which I know nothing about, I think of certain people who were rebelling against the Church of England back in the early 1600s. These people fought to worship God the way they felt right. They wanted religious freedom. History does not often record that these people we call "Pilgrims" were, in truth, driven out of England because of their personal beliefs. These people became the Cornerstone of what America stands for — the freedom to pursue their dream of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Mr. Hart cites an annual Gay March in Manhattan in which he insinuates that Gays mock and ridicule Jesus Christ. Understand: he is not saying a certain small factor of Gays, he is lumping ALL Gays under the banner of anti-religion. When I read that I remembered Martin Luther who fought against prosecution by mailing a list of protests on a Catholic Church door. Martin Luther had to do something offensive to gain freedom to worship God as he saw fit. Mr. Hart is saying ALL Gays ridicule Christ to create hatred against all Gays — not just a few radicals who over-reacted and got carried away. Remember, there are more people who are NOT Christians on the face of the earth than those who profess Christianity!

Mr. Hart blows up the NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Love Association) item to insinuate Gays prey on children — again, trying to raise hatred against Gays. What with the increased action against sexual child-abuse, Mr. Hart accuses all Gays as people who look for children as sexual partners. Nothing could be further from the truth. The true Gay seeks what every person seeks — sexual gratification. A child cannot give that gratification. The true Gay will fight child molestation with even MORE fervor than a heterosexual! Many Gays are parents who only want their children to grow up to be their own person. When we think of child molestation, I think of a family which used to live in our own area; namely Lisbon, a few years ago where the heterosexual father posed his own children in pornographic situations and took photographs of them, and even joined in sexual activities with them, then selling the photographs to pervers.

Mr. Hart says that the Clergy is speaking out because "things have gone pretty far". I agree with that statement, but Mr. Hart is incorrect in his context. Clergymen are realizing each individual on this earth is created by a kind and loving Father in Heaven. I saw a poster the other day that sums up what I'm trying to say. It shows a child with chin on folded arms. The lettering reads: "I Know I'm Somebody 'cause God Don't Make No Junk!!" Who is Mr. Hart to declare himself more all-knowing than the Father of Humankind? That's what I see in his column.

Mr. Hart is a syndicated columnist.

His column in the Journal is a discredit to newspaper columnists everywhere. He has shamed his title of "columnist". Far back I seem to recall reading about a man who also was a bigot like Hart. A man who sent thousands and thousands to gas chambers; to be buried alive in deep trenches because he was so AFRAID of them. Mr. Hart obviously hates Gays. Hatred, I am told by psychologists, is a form of Fear. Is Mr. Hart so afraid of his own sexual role that he seems to be echoing the same cry of Adolph Hitler?

"The character of the gay political movement is certainly beginning to be noticed," as Mr. Hart points out. People are beginning to realize that in the United States of America each of us has the unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I do not admit or deny to being a Gay, but I'll go one step further — I am an AMERICAN who loves this country and it's Constitution. I will quote Mr. Hart a statement made by the father of Republicanism, Abraham Lincoln: "I may not agree with what you say, but I'll defend with my life your right to say it." THAT is the difference between Jeffrey Hart and an American.

FG

John Stoltenberg

To the Collective:

I was disappointed in John Stoltenberg's presentation as part of the Autumnfest Celebration. My greatest disappointment stems from his failure to speak on the announced topic. Instead of hearing about "Feminism and Gay Liberation" we were subjected to a rather dated lecture on porno and the Minneapolis ordinance. GCN did a much better job of covering this topic perhaps six months ago.

After extensive discussion concerning the injustice of relationships characterized by Dominance and Submission, John Stoltenberg conducted a question and answer session which I walked out on. The man was incapable of letting anyone finish a question without cutting them off with a lengthy diatribe. It's too bad John couldn't practice what he preached and preached and preached.

Myles Rightmire

It is unfortunate that the title of John Stoltenberg's speech at USM was never accurately printed in the Autumnfest material. I don't think responsibility lies with any one person. I believe it to be an example of poor communication, in this case between myself and the Gay People's Alliance. I apologize for the mistake. John should not be blamed. This all happened without his knowledge.

Paul B. Seidman

the type room

Quality Typesetting

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Bangor Hearing

The following letter was sent by Dale to the Bangor Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition.

Dear Members of the Coalition,

I was deeply moved by the day I spent with you monitoring the Probable Cause hearing of Ness, Maybry and Baines on the murder of Charlie Howard. Afterwards I drove to Augusta for a Maine Freeze Voter steering committee meeting. I got out of the car, walked to the Kennebec and sobbed for 20 minutes. It was as if I had just enough glue to get me there. I don't even know all of why I was crying. There was so much emotion in that day: The polarization between us and the accused's friends and relatives in the courtroom, Charlie reduced to a list of contusions and lacerations, the nervous strength of the two young women who are testifying against their friends and peers, the quiet courage of Roy Ogden, and the bravery of those of you who have come out because of this case.

I keep thinking of Martin Luther King Jr. Back in the 60's he was asked by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to head the Civil Rights Movement. At first he resisted. He had a comfortable life and he knew the job would be filled with stress and danger. He had little more training than you do. Martin Luther King Jr. didn't know how to talk to the press when he started, but he learned. He didn't know how to put a movement together, but with a lot of faith and love he did it. And so are you. You have to grow where you're planted. And you are planted in Bangor, Maine at a very important juncture in our country's history.

The bravado of the accused's friends and relatives is a defense. Hostility and confusion always precede change. What's going on in Bangor is at the heart of the matter. Because you are standing up for us, attitudes are changing. You are doing wonderful work. My heart is with you in strength and love.



My Best,

Dale McCormick



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Needed ASAP — 28-year-old working mother and infant daughter seek securely employed, reliable roommate. We are willing to live within ½ hour of Portland. Can afford \$200. w/utilities. Call Mickey, 772-2410, M-Th 7-9 pm and F-Sun. anytime. Please keep trying.

GWM - newcomer — young mid 40s professional not into bar scene or head games seeks mature thinking GM to 35 for friends and/or relationship. If you have never answered an ad, answer this one because I have never placed one. Reply P.O. Box 1590, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801.

PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the **OUR PAPER Collective**, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of **OUR PAPER** is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity, as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

All material submitted must be signed and include an address and/or phone number, so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of material will occur without dialogue with the author.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us. Remember, **OUR PAPER** is Your Paper!!! **DEADLINE** for each issue is the 10th of the month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$12 for one year (12 issues), \$20 for two years, and \$30 for three years. Make checks payable to "OUR PAPER". All submissions and correspondence should be sent to **OUR PAPER**, P.O. BOX 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

OUR PAPER COLLECTIVE

Fred Berger	Ginny LaCrow
Diane Elze	Elinor Goldberg
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Tom Sumner	Susan
Barbara Wood	Skip Brushaber

West Coast Correspondent: John Frank

Why I Support Barry Hobbins

by Fred Berger

Of the candidates for Congress and Senate from Maine in this fall's elections, one candidate stands out for his strong support of gay and lesbian issues, particularly gay civil rights. He is Barry Hobbins.

Barry Hobbins is a Democrat seeking the First District Congressional seat currently held by one-term Congressman John (Jock) McKernan, a Republican. The First District includes the south-coastal and mid-coastal areas including the towns of Portland, Brunswick, Augusta, Rockland, and Camden. (It does not include Lewiston or Bangor.) Hobbins has served six terms in the state legislature representing Saco.

During his tenure in the state legislature Barry Hobbins has consistently argued in support of the state gay rights bill. In the 1983 debate he said; "We must all stop judging people's abilities to be good teachers, good employees, good neighbors and good credit risks by any other measure except their actions. As long as people do not impose their sexual preferences on others in any way prohibited by our criminal law, we have no place denying them the basic civil rights afforded to all citizens. The bottom line, ladies and gentlemen of this House, is that this is a basic civil rights issue."

Although he represents an area which is not particularly liberal, Hobbins has had the courage — so rare in the Maine legislature — to defend his belief in equality for all against the bigotry of his constituents. Particularly, in discussions with Franco — Americans he has sought to make them understand that their prejudice against gays is no different than the prejudice they themselves have faced in Maine.

Barry Hobbins is the only candidate to actively seek gay support in this election, and he has shown no fear at being identified with gay issues. Recently he has spoken at the Gay People's Alliance. He also was the only one of the candidates to attend an Autumnfest event. At the Democratic State Convention last March he was the only candidate to mention the need to end discrimination based on sexual orientation. At the Democratic National Convention he posed with Dale McCormick for a picture which was to appear in the Advocate. (The picture wasn't used but Barry was quoted in the article.) Furthermore, Hobbins has indicated that if elected he would most likely become a sponsor of House gay rights legislation. (He hesitates to be more definite only because neither he nor the gay people who asked him about the bill knew its exact wording.)

As for Jock McKernan, I must give credit where it is due. McKernan is the only one of the current Maine Congresspeople and Senators who has met with gay people. Last winter he spoke with a dozen gay and lesbian leaders in Portland. He listened with sincere interest to the opinions of those people. Yet he has refused to endorse civil rights protection for gay people. His particular concern is that a gay rights bill would allow gay gym teachers to be present in locker rooms with their students. So... I know he's gorgeous, but looks aren't everything and Jock has a long way to go in understanding gay people.

Until the day when openly gay candidates are running for major offices we must support our liberal allies. In the November 6 elections our friend and ally is Barry Hobbins. I urge you not only to vote for him but to contribute time and money to his campaign. The Hobbins-McKernan race is very close. The support of gay people in sizeable numbers could significantly influence the outcome of the race. "You can make a difference."



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AUTHORS NOTE: Bobbie Campbell, an R.N. from San Francisco was hailed as being the nation's leading activist of people with AIDS. I had the privilege of knowing Bobbi while living in San Francisco and wanted to share my memories of this courageous, generous individual; of our friend Bobbi.

by B.J. Aaron

I remember my apprehension in shaking Bobbi Campbell's hand upon meeting him in the Summer of 1982. I held such ignorance and fear of the dread disease AIDS. Could I catch it just by touching him? I did not know. Did anyone know?

"You're THE Bobbi Campbell? I've read your stuff," I said, extending my hand. Bobbi responded quietly and modestly. You'd think I was the first person to recognize him by his work — extensive writing and public education about AIDS and how it was killing off Gay men right and left.

I met Bobbi Campbell while working in the San Francisco hospital where he was enrolled as a graduate student in Nursing and where he came for dialysis. We shared a mutual friend, Angie, also a nurse. Over the course of several months I came to look forward to Bobbi's visits to the office and to chatting with him and Angie. Bobbi was a man of courage, of grace and of humor. I enjoyed his company.

The time I spent with Bobbi was limited and so are my memories of him. I do, however, have a favorite memory of him which took place in December of '82. He stopped by the office to borrow Angie's Santa Claus suit. After assistance in getting his tall, slim body into the suit, stuffing it with pillows and posing for a few polaroid shots, Bobbi was off for dialysis and to treat the unit staff to a bit of holiday cheer.

I wondered how he was able to get outside of himself so. How did he

harness his limited energy to write and speak about and advocate for the victims of this disease? Why did he spend his time in graduate seminars and writing papers to earn an M.S.N.? I admired his determination and was literally in awe with how he dealt with his disease.

It wasn't until after Bobbi's death that I reached any conclusions about just why he did all that he did. The conclusions came after hearing from my friend Angie about the last weeks of Bobbi's life. He spent them traveling around the country doing lectures on AIDS, attending seminars on the disease and writing. He was exhausted but continued on. Friends speculate that Bobbi knew that the end was near and wanted to do as much as he could while he could. Why did Bobbi Campbell not give up? Why did he continue to work until the end? Why did he proceed with furthering his education in the medical field knowing that he was dying? For us, I believe. Because he was our friend.

Bobbi Campbell died on August 15 in a San Francisco hospital. He was surrounded by approximately 25 family members and friends. He died much the way he lived, with courage, with dignity and with grace. Bobbi Campbell had class.

I called Angie a few nights back to let her know that I had heard about Bobbi's passing earlier in the day and to share the grief. In the course of the conversation we reminisced about that December morning he donned a Santa suit and paraded across Parnassus Street over to Moffitt Hospital. "You know, I still have that damn picture of him in that suit on my desk!" she shared. I couldn't help but chuckle, thinking of the fun we had had that day and of the picture sitting of her desk after all this time. I couldn't help but think of her friend Bobbi, of our friend Bobbi.



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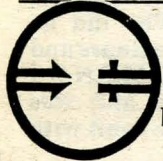
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ORGANIZATIONS



CMG/LAC

by Roger L.P. Litalien

On July 27th, 1984, the Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition was formed to unify gay men and lesbians in the Lewiston-Auburn community. The Coalition's activities include: education of the public about gay/lesbian issues, providing social functions for gay men and lesbians outside local bars, supporting members in a rap group, and networking with similar local and national organizations to improve gay and lesbian rights.

Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition sponsored a logo contest with a prize of \$25 being awarded to the winner. A local gay artist, Allan L. submitted the winning logo which was selected from several at our last meeting.

The Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition would like to network with your organization. We hope that CMG/LAC and your organization may work together towards better human rights in our society.

Lesbian/Gay Anti-Violence Committee

by Ken Mellenthin

There is a rising tide of violence against fags and dykes in Maine and across the country. In July we witnessed the murder of Charlie Howard in Bangor. There was a serious fag-bashing in Deering Oaks in Portland and another in Hallowell in August. And we don't know how many more acts of violence have been perpetrated against us. I use *us* because fag/dyke

On Saturday, September 22, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Augusta, under the careful direction of twenty-four Maine lesbians and gay men, a statewide educational/political action organization was formed. The Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) thus becomes the first state-wide lesbian/gay organization in Maine whose prioritized concern is the advocacy of human rights via political channels.

The purpose statement for MLGPA reads as follows: "MLGPA is a statewide, bipartisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and the media concerning lesbian and gay issues. Our primary goals are to involve the lesbian/gay community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights in Maine, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build coalitions, and network with state and national human rights organizations."

At this writing, members of the steering committee are investigating possibilities for the organization's structure. Given the intention and goals of the group, it appears as though MLGPA is headed toward establishing itself as a State PAC (political action committee). This option would allow the group to educate and lobby politicians as well as endorse those political candidates who are "correct" on lesbian/gay issues.

Group members agreed that no organizing, no advocating, no educating, and basically no good work can be done by MLGPA without a sound

financial base. Yearly membership fees of \$5-\$15 (now who *can't* afford \$5-\$15!) will fund the group, while fundraising efforts such as those done during Autumnfest, and larger ones planned for the future will supplement this funding.

Your cooperation in helping this new group thrive politically and financially is expected. If you say you can't talk to the media about gay/lesbian rights, can't march in a candlelight march, can't come to a lesbian/gay group meeting, then send a fair substitute — money. Never should you say you are left out of this process, or that it's not your issue. The issues we're fighting for are *your* issues, especially if words like homophobia, fag-bashing, discrimination, AIDS, oppression, gay/lesbian pride, gay/lesbian rights, self-love, freedom mean anything to you.

It's been said that the greater the diversity of input of a group, the more enriched and successful the outcome. In this case MLGPA appears headed in the right direction. At the first meeting at least 8 lesbian/gay organizations were represented from towns as far north geographically as Fort Kent, and by politics as far to the left politically as radical feminism. And the group survived all this rich diversity.

Yes, the first meeting was *that* energizing. So we'll see you at the next meeting:

Sunday, Oct. 14
Unitarian Universalist Church
Bangor, Maine
1:00 PM

bring a friend...

INTERWEAVE

Suspends Newsletter

INTERWEAVE, the statewide social organization for lesbians and gay men, has decided to suspend publishing a monthly newsletter after three years of publication.

"We have found that our financial resources are insufficient to continue putting out a newsletter," explained Douglas Morgan Strong, founder of the organization. Strong advised that the two INTERWEAVE chapters in Bangor and Augusta will continue meeting on a regular basis but that the newsletter will stop.

Bangor INTERWEAVE meets the first and third Saturday of each month at the Bangor Unitarian Church at 6pm (potluck, then a program) while the Augusta INTERWEAVE meets on the last Sunday of the month at 8pm at All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta.

"A lot of folks active with INTERWEAVE are currently putting their energies into three coalitions (Bangor, Lewiston/Auburn, and Augusta). It seems more important for that to happen than for us to put out a special newsletter. Much of what we print you can read in "Our Paper". Duplication of efforts wastes energy we need for the important work in the gay/lesbian community. The newsletter served its purpose well, but it's time to go on to new things," Strong advised.

INTERWEAVE was begun in 1981 by the social concerns committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Maine and provides a climate where people of sexual minorities can find encouragement, support and affirmation.

SENATOR BILL COHEN, CONGRESSMAN JOHN MCKERNAN AND CONGRESSWOMAN OLYMPIA SNOWE ARE CANDIDATES THAT MAINE'S LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT ENTHUSIASTICALLY!!

Senator Cohen, Cong. McKernan & Cong. Snowe have all developed progressive voting records in Congress. Records all citizens of Maine, straight or gay, can be proud of:

-----STRONG SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
-----STRONG PRO-CHOICE VOTING RECORD
-----STRONG WOMEN'S RIGHTS & CIVIL RIGHTS VOTING RECORD

-----CONCERN & EMPATHY FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT
-----RECEPTIVE AND OPEN MINDED ON ISSUES

Sen. Cohen, Cong. McKernan & Cong. Snowe have earned the support of Maine's Gay & Lesbian Community. Keep these progressives in Congress representing us!!

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, VOTE FOR:
UNITED STATES SENATE
WILLIAM S. COHEN ☐
(FIRST DISTRICT) UNITED STATES CONGRESS
JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR. ☐
(SECOND DISTRICT) UNITED STATES CONGRESS
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE ☐

This ad was paid for and prepared independently of the above candidates' campaigns by Concerned Republicans for Individual and Gay rights, in care of, R. Lambert, 530 Brighton Ave. Port., ME.

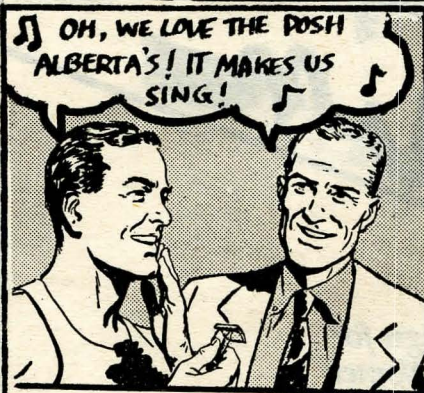
bashing and harassment isn't just directed toward the individual, it is against them because they are gay or lesbian. We live in a violent world! The next person to be assaulted could be you or me, your lover, a friend.

The Lesbian/Gay Anti-Violence Committee has been formed in Portland because we need to confront the problem. The committee has begun by outlining four basic needs. One is to make us less vulnerable to attack; this can be done through offering self-defense courses and developing a "Street-Wise" educational campaign. Another need is to provide survivor support for victims of violence, which will be done through the Gay People's Alliance. We also need to develop a rapport with the local Police Department. And finally, we need to network with other Gay/Lesbian organizations throughout the state so that anti-violence efforts can be

coordinated.

During Autumnfest about a dozen people from across the state met to start this network. Plans have been made to have a weekend of events in Lewiston, Brunswick, and Portland. The tentative date is Nov. 10-11, but please check the November issue of Our Paper for details. The weekend will be highlighted by an anti-violence march in Lewiston on Saturday and a visit from Kevin Burrill from the National Gay Task Force. Also planned for the weekend is Maine's first Lesbian/Gay Prom to benefit the Maine Lesbian/Gay Anti-Violence Project. Call John (761-0269) or Jeanne (772-5806) for more information on the weekend.

As usual people are needed to make this committee work. The next meeting will be at the Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., Portland, (780-4085). Everyone is encouraged to attend — it is a matter of life and death.



Open nightly for dinner, every weekday for lunch....

ALBERTA'S

RESTAURANT 774-5408
21 PLEASANT ST. PORTLAND

Who wouldn't love the mesquite-grilled features, the fresh seafood, the late-night dining, pizza, classic pop music, swell atmosphere, air-conditioning, fine wines and beers, and numerous other swank attractions?

MC/VISA

MAKES YOU WONDER, DOESN'T IT? NEWS COMMENTARY

continued from page 1

This, of course, left me wondering what I did wrong in my first bout of "investigative reporting." And it left me wondering as to whether or not they felt they needed to be accountable to the gay and lesbian community in Maine for their position. And it left me wondering just whose interests are being served.

It is known that Lois Reckitt is a personal friend of John McKernan. In fact, in 1982, Reckitt headed up the "Women for McKernan campaign" in McKernan's drive for the seat against Democratic candidate John Kerry. Could Reckitt's friendship with McKernan have anything to do with the PAC not endorsing Hobbins? Isn't it likely that Reckitt made her friendship with McKernan known to the PAC? Could personal back-scratching be a higher priority than political concerns in this situation? Makes you wonder, doesn't it?!!??

Barry Hobbins' support of gay and lesbian rights is firm. He supported the bill to amend the Maine Human Rights Act at least the last two out of three times it made it to the floor of the Maine Legislature, and I have a small notation on 7 year-old notes that he supported it in 1977 when it was first introduced. At the Maine State Democratic Convention, Hobbins talked about lesbian and gay rights in his speech and was active with the Lesbian and Gay Caucus in San Francisco at the Democratic National Convention. Maine N.O.W. members spent time with each of the candidates prior to making a recommendation to National NOW-PAC that they endorse Hobbins, and Hobbins made it clear he would sign on to the lesbian and gay rights bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to federal laws governing elections and Political Action Committees, state-level PAC's are prohibited from endorsing candidates running for federal office. Thus, Maine NOW-PAC cannot endorse a candidate running for the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, or the Presidency. (Maine NOW-PAC can only endorse candidates running in the state and local elections.) It is customary for state N.O.W. organizations (i.e., the membership organization as distinguished from the state-level PAC) to request that National NOW-PAC endorse particular candidates running for federal office. The National NOW-PAC frequently, if not always, waits for the recommendation of the state organization in the event of an endorsement. However, the National NOW-PAC does not always endorse the state N.O.W.'s recommendation, if, for example, it's not a race they wish to get involved in, or the candidate has no chance of winning, or the other candidate is not "bad enough".

Christine Torraca, a member of the National Board of N.O.W. and of Maine N.O.W.'s State Board, informally asked the National PAC, sometime in June, via a verbal communication with Seybolt, to endorse Hobbins. Maine N.O.W. then sent their formal request in

a letter to NOW-PAC dated August 19, written in anticipation of an early September PAC meeting in Washington. The letter, acknowledging each candidate's agreement on the ERA and reproductive choice, but citing their different positions on lesbian and gay rights, arms control, Reagan budget requests, and U.S. intervention in Central America concluded, "We are asking NOW PAC to endorse the candidacy of Barry Hobbins so that we can do our work here with as much backing as possible, to elect Hobbins and defeat McKernan, a symbol in our state of the Reagan presidency."

No written communication was received by Maine NOW from National NOW-PAC as to the outcome of the September PAC meeting. Seybolt, not a PAC member but a staffperson to the PAC, stated to Torraca that the PAC decided not to endorse Hobbins and that Maine NOW could provide them with additional information to present to an upcoming October PAC meeting. The reasons given to Torraca were that McKernan had voted correctly on ERA and reproductive choice and that the PAC has a difficult time endorsing someone in opposition to an incumbent who has voted correctly during the incumbent's previous term of office.

This leaves me wondering, "What about NOW's four fundamental tenets? What about lesbian and gay rights? What about the fact that, in this election, we are not in the same position as in 1982, when we found ourselves with a Republican candidate (i.e., McKernan) who supported reproductive choice and a Democratic candidate (i.e., Kerry) who was staunchly anti-choice?" (Hell, I voted for McKernan in 1982 for precisely that reason, though I agonized due to Kerry's support of a nuclear freeze.) Well, in 1984 we are *not* faced with such a difficult choice, as we have a candidate who supports all the issues that are priorities for N.O.W.

Surprisingly, National NOW-PAC does not use N.O.W.'s four fundamental tenets as a guideline in deciding endorsements. NOW-PAC uses a candidate's position on the ERA, choice, and Medicaid funding for abortion as the criteria. Personally, I could understand the use of this criteria if NOW-PAC were faced with a choice between two candidates, one of whom supported ERA and choice but not gay and lesbian rights, and another who did not support any of those issues. I tend to believe a person who supports ERA and choice has more potential to be swayed on gay and lesbian rights than someone who doesn't.

When asked about her response to the lack of a Hobbins endorsement, Torraca stated, "I cannot tell you the degree of my consternation, anger, outrage that they could not make the decision. It took me a week after I initially heard the news, not personally, but through someone else, before I had enough control of my anger to pick up the phone and talk with someone myself. It seems clear to me, not only on the lesbian and gay rights issue, but on other issues where McKernan clearly links himself with Ronald Reagan. The National

NOW organization, as well as the National NOW-PAC, are doing everything they possibly can to make sure that Ronald Reagan doesn't get another four years."

Maine NOW will be submitting more information to NOW-PAC in Washington for the October 6-7 PAC meeting. Torraca went on to say, "Though there are things we cannot do because of the legalities, those of us in the Maine NOW organization will do as much work for Barry Hobbins, with or without the NOW-PAC endorsement, as we can."

Let's hope, that as of October 8, Maine NOW will be working for Barry Hobbins with a National NOW-PAC endorsement.

FLASH!! NOW-PAC UPDATE

At a press conference September 30 in South Portland, the day following Maine NOW's 12th annual conference, Judy Goldsmith, here for a NOW-PAC fundraiser, responded as follows to our inquiry about NOW-PAC's lack of an endorsement to-date of Barry Hobbins: "I have every reason to believe that there will be an endorsement next week when our PAC meets because he is very strong on our issues, comprehensively across the board."

Inside the Republican Convention

by Lois Reckitt

Fortunately, paranoia is not a way of life for me, or I would never have survived the 1984 Republican National Convention. It would have been easier to be a spy. Instead, day after day I sat and watched and by my presence asserted the bipartisan nature of the National Organization for Women. To do so felt increasingly risky as all around me Reagan-Bush buttons proliferated and I continued to wear only my NOW pin.

I think the best way to convey how it felt to be "in the Coliseum" is to outline the highlights of each day's impressions.

Monday, August 20

The language oppression begins. And the buttons appear. Today's favorite, "The Best Woman for the Job May be a Man-George Bush For Vice President."

Senator Thad Cochran introduced Roosevelt Grier, born again Reaganite. It was enough to make me give up needlepoint!

The introduction of the Olympians fueled my outrage. The only woman athlete thanked Ronald Reagan for his participation in the opening ceremonies of the Games. She won't be so grateful for his participation in closing opportunities for women athletes. The Republican-controlled Senate continues to refuse to reaffirm our commitment to equality in education, as they hold up the Civil Rights Act of 1984.

This was "Women's Night" at the G.O.P. As speaker after speaker appeared to demonstrate The Party's commitment to women, I fumed at the irony of "Women's Night" — without ERA, without reproductive freedom, without pay equity and comparable work, without the freedom to be lesbian or gay.

Tuesday, August 21

I began to see, mostly outside the hall, the anti-Ferraro materials — all of them sexist, most of them obscene.

This too was the day that Jesse Helm was introduced as "our own profile in courage." For me that was an even greater outrage than the delegate tours of J.F.K.'s assassination sight. As Republican Senate Candidates were paraded by the Convention I realized again how incredibly important control of the Senate is to the rest of the decade. Similarly, if this G.O.P. has its way the Supreme Court will be dominated for the rest of our lives by right wing ideologues.

Wednesday, August 22

I put words tonight to the program of this Convention-Window Dressing on the Set: Women and Minorities at the Republican National Convention. While the Republicans featured women and minority speakers they show little commitment to equality in their platform and party rules. Tonight was anti-abortion night and speaker after speaker condemned "the slaughter of the unborn."

I discovered another great truth — demonstrations at conventions give me a headache! And I think they would even if they didn't abhor the nominee and his policies. The only consolation was that the roll call of the states give me my first and only opportunity for a cheer as the District of Columbia delegates introduced themselves as the home of the next Superbowl Champions — the Washington Redskins! However the moment of levity passed as the delegates, with two abstentions, renominated Ronald Reagan. They then rose — as I would not — to have Jerry Falwell pronounce a benediction over the anti-woman program of the G.O.P.

Thursday, August 23

The night should truly have been subtitled "Four more for the Gipper." But before I get into that I must respond to George Bush: You may be proud to be an American tonight. I will be truly proud when women and children no longer go hungry, when Native Americans no longer suffer on reservations that are the shame of the nation, when the poor and not just the rich have equal opportunity for the helping hand that sometimes only government can provide.

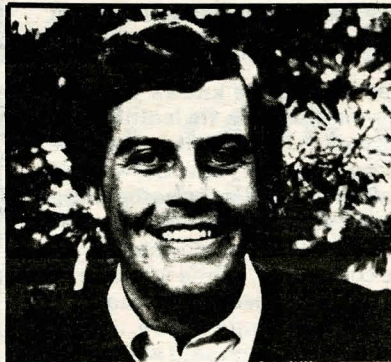
In the Convention's feature film Ronald Reagan gave the performance of his career. In person he blew his lines seven times. His speech was a classic example of how to lie with statistics. How can he talk of prosperity for our grandchildren when the most massive federal deficits in history have literally mortgaged their future? And if a balanced budget is so important to him why has he never once submitted one to Congress?

The tragedy of Ronald Reagan is that he believes his own rhetoric. The terrifying part for me is that Americans may believe it too.

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Backstreet

3 Spring Street, Portland, Maine
(upstairs from the Underground)



Barry Hobbins

Democrat For Congress
Item #1 Peace and
Efficient Defense System

"I am shocked by the waste in our defense system — \$7,000 for a coffee pot, missile systems that don't work, etc. Billions spent on unnecessary weapons like the MX missile which I oppose. Money, alone, does not provide a strong defense. Congress must stop Pentagon waste and insure sound management. At the same time, we must work for Arms Control and a mutual verifiable Freeze on nuclear arms."

Paid for and authorized by Barry Hobbins for Congress Committee Sharon M. Lunner, Treasurer.

Our People: Leather, Sex and Politics:

An Interview with three Harbor Masters

Part II

by Elze

The following is Part II of Elze's interview with Ralph and Butch, two members of Harbor Masters, Inc., Portland's levi/leather/S&M group, and Toy, a man who was then pledging the group. In Part I, which appeared in Our Paper's September issue, these men shared information about the organization, their personal backgrounds, attitudes towards more "effeminate" gay men, and a bit about their sexual lifestyles.

DE: You may know that Lesbian S&M has been quite a controversial issue in lesbian community across the country. One issue that is brought up is that the master/slave imagery and the Nazi uniforms that some people wear, that these images are oppressive in that they play on racism and anti-Semitism. How would you each respond to that?

B: I like uniforms very much. However, a Nazi uniform is one I have never been too fond of. My parents are from Germany. I have some particularly fond Jewish friends. Anyone such as the Nazis who have put down gays and other minorities, I don't appreciate. I would not dress as a Nazi officer. Most other uniforms I like. Many uniforms are very tight, they show a lot, they're cut in a very manly way. They have a lot of extra little things, such as different decorative belts, hats. I'm a hat freak; my lack of hair got me into wearing hats at one time. I like a lot of the accessories that go along with uniforms.

R: Fantasy.

DE: There's a power thing in there, too, right? People in uniforms usually have power over other people.

B: Sure.

R: I never thought about a Nazi uniform. If someone is sensitive to them, I think that's something personal. I accept everybody as they are. As far as master/slave roles, I think that's something people have to have their own thoughts about. If they're sensitive to either being cast as a master or cast as a slave, they shouldn't be in the position of having that happen to them. I, myself, sexually consider myself a bottom. I have been topped by both blacks and whites. I never thought anything of race with it. It was just the person I chose to have sex with, whether be he black or white.

DE: But, you know Ralph, it's not just a personal thing. I have a Jewish lover and I wouldn't want her to walk into a bar and see someone in a Nazi uniform.

B: I have found that the majority of black men I've seen in the S&M trip, when they really play a top or a bottom, play a top and maybe it is because of that feeling that they do not want to be put in that bottom position.

R: But as far as a person getting dressed in a uniform or a costume to be a master or a slave with grievance, there's not that much of it. A lot of it is just fantasy and game play as far as sex goes.

T: The total idea of slave and master, I think, is very predominant in the S&M world. That's very big. I, myself, have given myself to a man as a slave — totally. I did it at a time when he was not quite ready for it, and therefore would not accept me as a slave. I was a teacher at the time. I gave myself to him on a Sunday and by Friday I had made arrangements that if I needed to get rid of everything, if he gave me that responsibility, I could handle that, so that I could totally be his slave in any way, shape or form, in bed and out of bed. It didn't work out.

DE: What turned you on about that?

T: For me, I guess that whole aspect is I consider myself a bottom, or a slave if you want to use that term. I wanted to be his slave. I wanted to serve him. I wanted to please him. I had real high respect for the man. I could say I loved him at the time. I had observed him for six months without ever saying anything. And this weekend was the first time I had even tricked with him, when I did this. There was just something about it I wanted. I want it. And he was the right person. I haven't found anyone since to meet the standards. The whole idea of slave and master and oppression — no one should be forced to be a slave.

R: Unless they want to be.

DE: Unless they want to be forced. Then you're consenting.

T: Right. But there's no way a person should be forced without their consent. I have no qualms with the whole concept of slave and master in any shape that any two people want to get into and agree to. The idea of consenting people in that situation, I have no problem with.

DE: I think the issue people are struggling with is at what point do our personal sexual lives, what we do in bed, become political — become oppressive to other people, perpetuate power dynamics which we'd like to see the world rid of.

B: My sexual thing leaves off at the bedroom door — or wherever we happen to be having sex.

DE: Getting back to the Harbor Masters as a club, how are the Harbor Masters received by other men in the gay community? Have you experienced negative attitudes from people because it's a leather/levi/S&M club?

B: I think so. The Underground is probably the most crowded place you'd ever want to go to. But we go in there, especially in the wintertime when we have our hats and leather jackets on, and our leather boots, and we can go in there and probably have a good two-foot clearance around us anywhere we'd want to go. If you wanted to get from one side of the bar to the other, all you'd have to do is stand in the middle of us and we'd escort you all the way because people just move out of the way. It doesn't happen as much as it used to, but it's a total thing of fear of the unknown.

T: The other aspect you have to remember is that if someone knows you and you're friends and this person is at the bar, and you show up in leather, it's automatically guilt by association if he's seen with you — just like it is if you're with some straight friends and a gay friend comes up and everyone knows he's gay, and he says something to you — it's guilt by association. It's the same thing with leather. It's the idea that if you're into leather and you know him, then more than likely he's into S&M too, and his friends say, "My God, you do that?!!!"

R: It's not all that, though. We get a lot of positive comments. While working at Cycles, I used to hear a lot of comments and compliments from people not knowing I was affiliated with the Harbor Masters. Things like, how strange we are, or how nice it is to see a group get organized. I think it relates to what Butch said about fear of the unknown. People don't really know us and don't know what we're into. There's always the rumors that our meetings are sexual orgies, which they're not. A lot of people think we're just a sexual group, that we have no social function or social value.

T: Well, many people think that the only sex we have, totally, is real rough S&M sex.

R: Right, and it's not that way at all. I love gentle sex. I like rough sex. But I like to make gentle love to my lover. We get a lot of comments about the Harbor Masters out of the unknown. They're afraid to associate with us because we might hurt them or something.

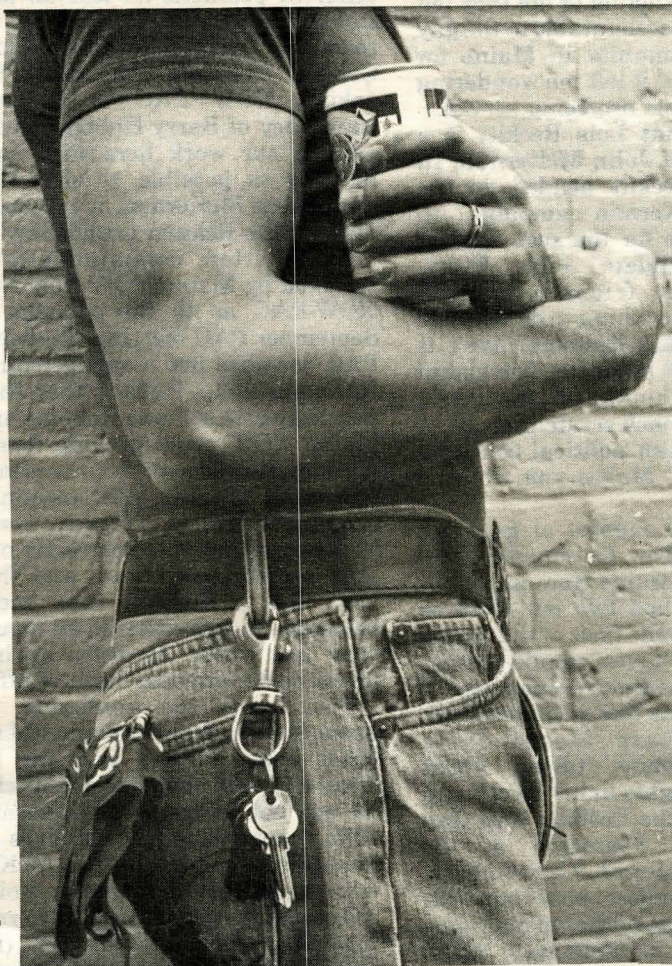


photo: John Preston

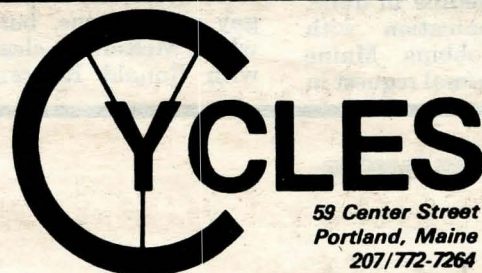
T: One nice thing that I think needs to be mentioned is that the Harbor Masters went to the Boston Gay Pride March and it was the first time in fifteen years that a leather club marched in the parade.

B: People from different clubs have marched in the gay pride parade, but they had never before marched as a club unit. The picture of the parade which appeared in *Our Paper* with the Harbor Masters as the color guard for the Maine contingent, with the lesbian leather group and the Gay People's Alliance right behind us, I think that in itself has a lot to say. We have gained quite a reputation in the City of Portland and the State of Maine and throughout the New England Conference for being a pretty together group of individuals and putting on some successful fundraising events.

“And the reason for Autumnfest last year was specifically to raise money for AIDS-related activities of the Maine Health Foundation. That was why we held it.”

DE: What activities have the Harbor Masters been involved in? And what are you planning for the future.

R: We try to do things by committee with two or three people. The upcoming Autumnfest is being handled by several members. I'm dealing with our club anniversary coming up in November. For the anniversary, we'll be putting on a run. The term comes from a bike run, a motorcycle run. A bunch of bikers get together and go on a trip or have a field day. We do the same thing but without the motorcycles. We get other clubs to participate. Last year we got applications from as far away as Florida, Montreal and Buffalo. We had 98 show up. It's basically a big celebration. We organize a weekend of events — a big formal dinner (last year it was at Boone's), games and events where people can compete for medals and trophies.



59 Center Street
Portland, Maine
207/772-7264

MON.	T-Shirt Night 1st & 2nd drinks ½ price with Cycles, Steamers or Limited Edition T-Shirt
TUES.	\$6.00 for all the single bar liquor drinks or domestic beer you can legally drink. 8:00 to closing.
WED.	50 Cent Drafts All Night
THURS.	2-4-1 on everything all night.
FRI.	Western Night Second bar liquor drink or domestic beer free if you wear 501's, cowboy boots or hats
SAT.	Leather Night Second bar liquor drink or domestic beer FREE if you wear leather vest, jacket, jeans or chaps
SUN.	Bartender's Night Specials all day and night
DAILY.	2-4-1 BAR LIQUOR & BEER OPENING TO 8:00 PM

T: Along with the Autumnfest celebration, which is being co-sponsored with other organizations, it looks like the New England Council will all be coming up that weekend.

R: And the reason for Autumnfest last year was specifically to raise money for AIDS-related activities of the Maine Health Foundation. That was why we held it. I'm not sure where the money will go this year, but all the proceeds will be going to specific causes.

B: We're a not-for-profit organization. So, by our by-laws, we cannot show a profit. We just came back from "Christmas In July" put on by Entre Nous of Boston. They are one of the more established clubs of Boston. That whole weekend was nothing but a fundraising weekend. When we were ready to leave, they had already raised about \$3,600 for patient care for AIDS. There were about 115 men there — and three women.

We've also co-sponsored a voter registration drive down at the bars with the Gay People's Alliance. We have three notaries in the club. Some members were involved in a meeting with Congressman John McKernan to discuss gay issues. Some members raised money to contribute to Dale McCormick's trip out to the Democratic National Convention. And, we co-sponsored with Cycles the Mr. Drummer New England Contest.

DE: What impresses me is the kind of networking you do, the connections you have with other clubs.

R: We all have a common interest.

"I'd like to see us have enough people who want to be politically active, who are interested in education, who are interested in organizing events. I'd like to see us be large enough to be diverse enough to go into all those different areas."

DE: But so do a lot of gay and lesbian organizations, but that type of networking doesn't always go on. Why do you think that is?

B: No matter where we go as members of a levi/leather/S&M fraternity, other gay people have looked down upon us or differently at us. Yet, we can go to a club in Germany, Scotland, England, California and talk about the exact same things — our sexual styles, some of the problems we've had with straights and with gays.

DE: I know that the Harbor Masters has invited Pat Califia to come up for the Autumnfest celebration. Why is that? I'm curious, as she is a woman and I would have expected you to invite a man as a speaker.

B: Because of her S&M background and a recent request made to us by gay women in Portland and Lewiston/Auburn for help in starting a levi-leather club.

R: The women don't travel to Boston. The women don't have leather bars in Boston to travel to. The men do.

DE: So it was a gesture on the part of the Harbor Masters to help these women get a club together.

B: Yes, and the fact that she is a very well-known speaker on S&M relationships.

DE: You know, you've mentioned Cycles a number of times. What is the Harbor Masters' relationship with Cycles? I think Cycles is closely associated with the Harbor Masters in the eyes of some people in the community. And, I think Cycles and the Harbor Masters have the reputation among some people of hating women. Could you comment on that, as well?

"We have gained quite a reputation in the City of Portland and in the State of Maine and throughout the New England Conference for being a pretty together group of individuals and putting on some successful fundraising events."

R: Not all of Cycles' clientele are leather/levi/S&M. We should keep in mind that we're talking more about a more masculine attitude towards appearance and dress and lifestyle and sexual preference. It was and maybe still is a thorn in the Harbor Masters' side, as well as Cycles' side — because when people talked about the Harbor Masters, Cycles was automatically assumed in there and when they talked about Cycles, the Harbor Masters was automatically assumed in there. Not that they minded being associated with each other. It was just an automatic assumption which kind of got in the way. When you talked about Cycles, people didn't want to go to Cycles because the Harbor Masters were always there. That's not so. We're not always there. And we're not always in leather when we are there. The owners are two of the founding members. And it just happened that when we met them, they were getting ready to open a bar. And we just decided to start a club. One didn't start because of the other. And because Cycles was originally intended to be "a masculine men's bar," it was automatically taken for the Harbor Masters' home bar.

B: A "home bar" is where we display our large patch — what we call "colors," and colors of clubs who have given their colors to us as a token of friendship. Our trophies are there, different memorabilia of your club, where you hold your functions, where people can find you if they're traveling from out-of-town.

R: As far as women go, a touchy subject with a few members. There are a couple members who don't want to associate with women at all. Some won't go out of their way to associate with women. And there are others who do associate with women. There a very few who will not associate with women.

DE: Why do you think the Harbor Masters has that reputation among some people. I've heard that from both gay men and lesbians.

R: I'm sure we get our stigma from the bar. Because of Cycles' policies, that's one of the thorns in our side.

B: Much of the stigma we get as being anti-women comes from association with Cycles.

DE: I think part of it may be the emphasis on "masculinity" — which has historically oppressed women. You know, that division between masculine and feminine roles, and the machismo that men use with women, and the power that men have used with women. What about that New Bedford Night? What part did the Harbor Masters play in all of that? I heard conflicting stories.

B: It happened on an afternoon where we were all sitting around drinking. Not all Harbor Masters, but everyone who had been sitting around the bar at that time. Absolutely no one meant it to be a slam on a woman who had been victimized. Some people within our group supported the activity. Others didn't. The next day we went in and it appeared on the board as going to happen and that's when people really began to doubt whether it should. When we heard people were going to march on and picket the bar...

DE: Oh, it would have been worse than that.

continued on page 10

UNDERGROUND

3 Spring St., Portland, Me. 773-3315

Friday, October 12th —

The opening of our new piano bar. Featured pianist, Dennis Crow from the Front Porch in Ogunquit.

Sunday, October 14th — *Funnyman Allan Lozito*

Wednesday, October 31st — HALLOWEEN PARTY

Free cocktail masquerade party, cash prizes for the 3 best costumes. Doors open at 3:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Backstreet for their successful new opening - just upstairs from the underground.

August 20, 1984

Power At Bangor District Court

by Richard Steinman

Power took many forms at Bangor District Court on August 20th. It seemed the single organizing principle of the day, beginning with the authority of bailiffs to seat at least 20 late comers in the Courtroom before seating the public-at-large (including 20 Coalition members who had arrived earlier.) Once again, everyone seeking admission was accommodated accounting for at least 30 standees. (Out of consideration for the latter, Judge David Cox called a recess almost every hour.)

Raw, Fatal Physical Force

The spectre of raw, feral physical force haunted the Courthouse throughout the proceedings. Before the Court sat, Coalition members learned that Roy Ogden, the pivotal witness for the prosecution, had received several written death threats intended to scare him away from testifying. Then, during the hearing, itself, we heard extensive testimony about the use of such force upon the live body of Charlie Howard by; Daniel Ness, 17, Shawn Maybry, 16, and James Baines, 15.

Roy testified as follows: when he and Charlie were menaced they ran across the street, Charlie tripping and falling to the ground. As he was kicked in the face and body he yelled, "Fire, fire!" One of the attackers yelled, "Let's throw him in the river." According to Roy — and only Roy — 3 or 4 times Charlie yelled, "I can't swim!" When they had fled in their car Roy got as close to the river as he could (a distance of at least 10-12 feet from the water) and tried to shout instructions about staying afloat. Charlie flailed his arms, crying "help me!" He was trying to stay afloat. Upon the advice of another man who came to help, Roy fetched security guards from a nearby exhibition but by the time they returned, Charlie had already drowned. The other man pointed out where he had gone down.

Two teenage women, the attacker's companions on the night of July 7th, testified as to averting their eyes from the violence underway. One said, "I didn't really look. I looked and then looked back quick. I couldn't hear anything. I saw a leg going over the bridge. They were laughing; thought it was funny." The prosecutor established the fact that she had impaired eyesight. Both young women frantically but unsuccessfully tried to remove themselves from the scene by driving away because "I didn't want to watch. I hadn't ever seen anything like that." In consequence, their attention to the violence was poor. Since they were never able to start the car they were forced, against their will, to catch fleeting glimpses of the violence-in-progress:

I saw the 3 of them beat him up. He was down on the ground with all 3 kicking him. After that I saw Dan and Shawn pick him up. Jim was just standing. I just saw his legs going over the railing last. They all did the "high five" (Black culture and hand salute) when they got back to the car. Jennifer and I asked them, "What if

that guy dies?" They didn't expect him to. Danny said, "Don't worry. He won't drown."

All agreed that, as they rushed from the scene, Daniel Ness called out to Roy, threatening to kill him if he went to the police.

During the day's first recess there was a threat fo fatal, physical force from a young adult male spectator who declared to Roy, "You're dead, faggot!" as the latter was seated in the waiting area outside the Courtroom following his testimony.

Sheriffs Withdrawal

One of the most disturbing manifestations of power was its withdrawal from the scene at the moment that Roy, supported by 8-10 Coalition members, was trying to get the authorities to receive his report of the death threat just made in the Courthouse. A group of four representatives of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Dept. were stationery as Roy and a half-dozen Coalition members approached them in the lobby. But as soon as they understood the purpose, the group of sheriffs dissolved by slowly drifting outdoors. A Coalition member followed and began copying their names down from badges. Their leader Sgt. Thompson, said civilly his was the only name that needed to be recorded. He was asked, "Why will you not act on our request? Is it not a crime in Maine for someone to threaten the life of a material witness?" The Sargeant began moving back into the lobby, politely explaining that the Sheriff's Dept. was present to ensure the security of the Court, not to investigate alleged criminal behavior. He said, however, that a detective had been summoned for this purpose from the Bangor Police Dept. Coalition members pointed out that the man who had made the threat on Roy's life might be getting ready to leave the building. Was it within the Sargeant's authority to obtain his name and address pending the arrival of the detective? Sgt. Thompson said it was his considered opinion that it was within his authority to do so. He took a few steps toward the man but drifted away from him. Coalition member Debbie Leavitt exclaimed, "Aren't you going to get his name?" to which the Sgt. replied, "I already know it."

Male Bond Amongst the Machos

The latter revelation points to perhaps the most insidious expression of power at the hearings, both on July 31st and Aug. 20th — the subtle power of the male bond. Throughout the long morning of waiting, on July 31st (see last issue of Our Paper), and throughout the day on August 20th, understated camaraderie was evident between some officers of the law and the male supporters of the three juveniles. Some of them visited with each other, exchanged confidences, and shared fag jokes. In the recesses at both hearings the two older offenders mixed with some combination of this male network and received status and emotional support from them.

In another expression of the male bond, the father of one of the two young women passengers gave the appearance of being a buddy of the male who threatened Roy's life in the waiting area. In addition to their apparent friendship, they shared in common very muscular,

continued on page 10

September 14, 1984

Judge Cox and the Trivialization of Charles Howard's Death

by Richard Steinman

At the end of the day on September 14th two events occurred at Bangor District Court. Judge David Cox argued that trying the three attackers as juveniles did not trivialize Charlie Howard's death but then took action which clearly did.

Three Legal Tests

Judge Cox ruled that he did not "find by a preponderance of the evidence that" the three juvenile attackers "should be tried as adults, and the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court is not waived." He arrived at this judgement on the basis of three legal tests which the law requires be taken into consideration: the seriousness of the crime, the characteristics of the juveniles, and the dispositional alternatives.

Seriousness: The Judge stated that there was no more serious crime than the killing of a human being, for only in that instance, in the State of Maine, can a single crime be punished by life imprisonment. "I have given this great weight," he said, "because it is not an offense against property, which can be restored, but the taking of a human life which cannot be." He described the attack as "violent, aggressive and willful." However, he said, the Legislature did not intend that "seriousness" be the sole criterion considered by the Courts. Otherwise it would not have mandated two additional legal tests.

Characteristics of the juveniles: After reviewing the psychological tests and the psychiatric examination results, he said, "I find nothing to indicate a previous history, emotional attitude, or pattern of living to justify trying them as adults." When the judge entered the courtroom on Sept. 14th he had not yet unsealed the reports. They were only read by him and all the attorneys in the case between 2:00 and 3:05 that afternoon.

As for the *dispositional alternatives*, that refers to the range of possible trials which the judge could order, the gravest being trial as adults. A judge must consider he explained, whether future criminal conduct will be deterred by choosing the most extreme disposition available. Would such a choice protect the community more? He did not know. But he did argue against the line of reasoning that a lesser sentence diminishes the gravity of the offense. If it did, he stated, then the Legislature would never have made a range of dispositional alternatives available to the Courts.

Same Conditions of Custody

The judge then released the attackers under the same conditions of custody — living at home and leaving home only in the custody of a person named on a list approved by the Court — which had prevailed all summer. When he had continued these arrangements on July 31st he did so only after ascertaining from the prosecutor that no violations of the custody arrangements had been reported. Such was not the case on September 14th. Yet the judge totally ignored the violation verified under the rules of evidence.

Earlier that day he had taken testimony which clearly documented a violation of the terms of custody by 16-year-old Shawn Maybry and his mother. In late August Maybry was attending a dance at Bangor Auditorium. Nineteen-year-old Robert Clarey testified that some teenagers summoned him from another part of the building to a scene in the basement where Maybry and another youth were involved in a heated disagreement. (Despite the prosecutor questioning why he felt the need to hold Maybry's arms behind his back to restrain him, Clarey insisted there was no physical fight.) At roughly the same time a Bangor police officer was being summoned to the same disturbance by some teenagers. After three efforts by Maybry's defense attorney to get the Court to rule out the testimony he was about to give, the police officer was finally permitted to testify to the effect that he had come upon Maybry in a very agitated state. He was very upset and babbling words but they did not hang together in sentences one could understand. There was a strong smell of liquor but the officer could not tell whether it emanated from Maybry, his opponent or both. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Maybry arrived at the scene and the officer withdrew.

Judge Cox trivialized Charlie Howard's death by sending this youth home in the custody of his parents as if no violation of the Court-ordered custody had occurred.

Update on the Courthouse Death Threat Robert Clarey, one of the witnesses on Sept. 14th, was also the man who had threatened witness Roy Ogden's life in the Courthouse after the latter testified on August 22nd ("You're dead, faggot"). At that time, following considerable assertiveness by Roy and Coalition members, an officer of the Bangor Police Dept. had taken Roy's statement to this effect.

On September 14th the reporter for Bangor's NBC affiliate, Channel 2, told this writer that, when she inquired of the police a week earlier as to the progress of their investigation into Clarey's threat against the life of a material witness in the Courthouse, she was told no investigation was in progress.



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On Sunday night, September 17, the Underground hosted McLetter and the Stamps and The Nunettes in a benefit for the Gay Health Action Committee and Our Paper. The show was advertised to begin at 9:00 p.m. and keeping to tradition it started at 10:00 p.m.

As the crowd gathered there was an air of low energy, perhaps brought on from the prior days and evenings' festivities presented by Autumnfest.

As the show started, the outer circumference and bar areas were full and the table areas were filling. Enter McLetter and, no not McLetter and the Stamps but Baby Dyke and the Three Tops. It seems that the Stamps were unavailable, so McLetter regrouped and renamed. Baby Dyke (Dale McCormick) and the Three Tops (Phil Gautreau, John Preston and Robin Lambert) assembled for a brief, sing-along-with-Baby song, "Lick my..." something or other. To Phil, John and Robin... you have courage.

The show was seen mostly by 1/4 of the audience. Working in the round is difficult? And there was little rapport between Baby and the Tops. Having heard Dale sing before, and seen her on stage, it was a let down to hear how quiet and somewhat reserved her voice and stage presence was. I had the feeling

that most involved in this act were not comfortable up-stage, and that there had not been much rehearsal time. Maybe they can try it again?

Then to the stage came the Nunettes — Sr. Turgida Cox, Sr. Mary Bible Shit, Sr. Immaculate Deception, and Sr. Adoration of the Holy Crotch — an act that is known for its glamour, sleaze and song and news of the day and thank yous and "think about this..." Again though, the girls felt tired, unrehearsed and lacking of energy. However they did give us nasty habits, bible work, beads, pumps, glitter and enough energy in their first chakra to make up for the absence of their usual chutzpah. Thank you Sr. Turgida (Ken Mellenthin — do keep doing your stuff out West), Sr. Mary (Myles Rightmire — ooh them there eyes), Sr. Immaculate (Brian Fairbrother — where did you get those clamps) and Sr. Adoration (Arthur Lopes — great buns Sr.). And special mention to Sr. Teeny Weeny.

These shows can probably be chalked up to "you gotta have bad so that there can be good."

Many, many thanks to the Harbor Masters and G.P.A. for working so hard to put together a week of gay/lesbian activities. The community was left with memories and pride. We look forward to next year's Autumnfest.

photo: Charlie Ridlon



Review — Oxygen Debt at PPAC

by Brian Crabtree

September 6-9 marked the debut performances of a new group of area dancers at the Portland Performance Arts Center. Their name is *Oxygen Debt* and they are comprised mostly of student dancers under the tutelage of Stephen Goldbas, rehearsal director for Ram Island Dance Co. The fact that many of the dancers are students normally means an audience is in for a performance lacking in professional depth and focus. This group, however, was obviously well-rehearsed and for the most part seemed comfortable on stage.

The name *Oxygen Debt* comes from that state (which most athletes will recognize) arrived at when the body has exhausted its supply of air. None of the dances seemed particularly aerobic from an audience point of view, but they all displayed various kinds of physical effort, and that where I was most able to make comparisons and find interest.

The opening dance, "Soma Langua", was set to bouncing music by the Tom Tom Club. There were many dancers in this piece and merely seeing twelve or so bodies moving purposefully on a small stage can be interesting. But for all the layers of people, the dance itself was oddly flat and two-dimensional. This may be partly due to the fact that it was built on straight lines and diagonals and most of the leg and arm gestures were stiff and "archaic". This formality was contrasted by an attempt at a street-wise casualness in many of the encounters between dancers which seemed forced and ultimately fought the rest of the dance for attention.

Next on the program was "A Dance for Lumpy's Wedding" dedicated on that occasion to Mr. Goldbas' sister. Besides wondering why her nickname is Lumpy, I found myself also wondering why the sometimes ingenious partnering in this dance was not as impressive as it should have been. I realized that the transitions from place to place within the dance seemed too thin and undeveloped in comparison to the many lifts and tumbles experienced by this couple in their cleaving, supportive relationship. It was very neatly danced by Mr. Goldbas and Cheryl Mitchell and the image of the two inching forward, close to the ground with their arms slicing the air somehow managed to convey the idea of what a marriage can be; an effort worth the weight of its demands.

Before intermission came "Snarl" which has been in the repertory of Ram Island Dance Company and was performed by two of its co-creators and Tony Spotten. Here the effort and its resultant images really paid off in every aspect. This is a dance of men and their physicality, a subject that the choreographers handled well. It is also a dance "about" wrestling and each section is demarcated by the referee's bell. The atmosphere is tongue-in-cheek and the overwrought emotion and showmanship of wrestling matches is done comically and in a subtle manner by all three dancers. The various sizes

and shapes of their bodies were used to great effect. Stoney, one of the original makers of the dance, was a delight as he skipped on and off stage or engaged in mock showdowns with Goldbas and Spotten. All of them were at ease with the many cartwheels, rolls, and lifts. Among my favorite images is a man doing a travelling sort of hop beside a man cartwheeling as though he were the hoop that the other was rolling. Terrific! The sweat was real and the applause well-earned.

The second half opened with "Eulogy for Kitty and Jake", a longer piece created by Mr. Goldbas while a student at NYU, although newly-scored by E-Mc² (a local jazz group), and with some new scenes. This dance failed to engage me and occasionally confused me as well. It opens with a corps of black-clad dancers escorting the title characters, played by Matt Manzo and Ms. Mitchell, across the space with some lovely undulating and falling phrases. It then begins to degenerate into a series of sections which struck me as college dance (aka "experimental"), full of disturbing and inscrutable images. I'm sure they were relevant to the choreographer but left me scratching my head. Why does Kitty wear a hard hat and sweep the floor? Why is her tolerance for her one-armed drunkard husband expressed so blandly? Who is the strangely Jewish character who keeps returning to perform a series of random, assaultive gestures? After a while I felt so awash in questions that I began to wish Goldbas had left this dance at the exit doors to NYU as a fond memory of his development.

Next was another duet for Ms. Mitchell and Tony Spotten titled "The Unredeemed". I found it so similar to, and with the same problems as, "A Dance for Lumpy's Wedding" that I will only say that the audience was very appreciative. This was no doubt in part due to the considerable amount of flesh exposed on the bodies (lovely ones) of both dancers. For all that nakedness it was somehow asexual to me. I longed for a sense of release which never occurred. Ah well!

The program closed with "Dragon's Teeth", another group dance to music by David Bowie. The stage was used in much the same manner as "Soma Langua" except for some of the group carries and lifts — mostly Ms. Mitchell being swung precariously about. Unfortunately I found myself worrying for the dancers' safety, and this made it hard to receive any message they were trying to convey.

As a group *Oxygen Debt* holds real promise and it would be wonderful to see them present more informal concerts to develop a style and a sense of polish. It was good to see so much hard work come to fruition, and I hope to see more of Portland's gay community support the efforts of area dancers to entertain and challenge.

Brian Crabtree has been dancing and making dances in Portland for twelve years.



photo: Charlie Ridlon

Reflections on Gay Art

by Christopher Behan

It is not a gross generalization to state that a greater percentage of homosexuals are involved in the arts than in other fields. So it is intriguing that the Autumnfest Art Show exhibited at the Portland School of Art should be subtitled "art by homosexual artists."

In explaining greater participation by homosexuals in art, it is often said that they tend to be more sensitive than others. It seems that this sensitivity is born out of the alienation from society that gays and lesbians often experience.

It is remarkable, given the presumed number of homosexuals involved in art, that more of these artists are not depicting homosexuality in their work, especially considering the pain and sadness that are so often part of a homosexual's existence. Also, considering that sexuality is one of the basic elements of an individual's make-up, it is odd that more homosexual artists are not more open about their sexuality. Some compromise is involved here.

One would like to believe that art is a forum for totally free self-expression. Unfortunately, probably due to the economic nature of the art trade, the bigotry of the viewing public and artists' own repression reinforced by a homophobic society, art is not always a means of expressing one's wildest fantasies, or venting deep political frustration or even depicting the world as it appears to be.

By being quite clear that the artists involved in Autumnfest Art are homosexuals, there is no guesswork involved. By knowing the artist's basic orientation we are able to have a deeper understanding of his or her work. One might argue that it is not critical to know the intimate details of the artist's life.

This may be true. Those artists whose work was on display at the Autumnfest Show made a bold statement: "I am an artist, and I am a homosexual."

As Mark Pettegrow, coordinator of the exhibition makes clear in the show's program statement, "It is important to realize that this is not 'gay art', but rather work by gay artists — artists proud of their sexuality, but not limited by it, proud of our community and aware of its awakening pride and self-confidence."

In keeping with this philosophy, diversity in approach, media and style were represented in work by contributing artists: Jonathon Currier, Phil Gautreau, David Goren, Serena Hazard, Jim Hoyt, Jeanne Hutchins, Anna Kissed, Robin Lambert, Martha Lunney, Ken Mellenthin, Liz Moberg, Michael Poisson, John Preston, Paul Rodrigues, Jim Smith, George Summers, Paula Tessier, F.R. Vance, Toni Wolfe, Susan Preschelle, Mark Roy, and Rachel Woodruff. The techniques included painting, photography, ceramics, batik, needlepoint, mosaic, sculpture and performance art.

In general the quality of the work presented at the non-juried, non-thematic, non competitive show was admirable. It is unfortunate that the art was only on display for the weekend of Autumnfest, but the expense of renting the gallery space made the brevity necessary. It is doubly sad, given the amount of effort put into organizing the show and also the potential for greater exposure had it been longer.

A show like Autumnfest Art gives homosexual artists an opportunity to communicate visually with each other and with the community, to demonstrate a kind of unity despite a divergence in manner of expressing a way of seeing.

B: ... there were members of the Harbor Masters who said that if that happened, they would probably join the picket line.

R: We're not a group that stands on one policy. We're eighteen separate units creating one larger unit. We're all individuals.

T: From what I've seen, and I'm relatively new, I don't think that Harbor Masters as a club takes a lot of political stands on issues other than those that affect the club as a whole, as a gay organization.

B: We also have members of our club, both full members and associate members, who are currently married. As long as they class themselves as gay men, we don't care who they're married to, as long as they are practicing gay males; that is all that's required. They are not what I would call anti-woman.

DE: Butch, earlier you told me you used to be anti-woman. Could you talk about that? What did you mean?

B: I used to feel anti-woman and the group of people who have changed my thinking and a lot of my way of associating towards women are the LGA's — the female S&M club from New Bedford.

I've been homosexual all of my life. I've never had a relationship with a woman. It just never appealed to me; it was never interesting. When I'd get close to women at work — I'm a nurse, so I'm constantly working with women — and we'd get close at work, they would cross the line and automatically think a sexual attraction should be there. I get irritated at that, in the same way that women get irritated when men come on to them. I don't like a woman having the expectation of sexual attraction.

DE: But what about when men come on to you? I guess I'm wondering about the intensity of your feeling. When you say "anti-woman," do you mean hate, or disinterest, or "less than"?

B: I just wasn't interested. I would feel very threatened if a woman came on to my lover. That is something that would make me real angry real fast.

DE: More angry than if another man came on to him?

B: Yes.

DE: Why?

B: I will not compete with a woman. If that's what he wants, that's what he wants, but don't come back to me.

DE: What is it about "competing with a woman" that makes you so angry?

B: I don't know. He has had sexual experiences with women in the past. He was engaged at one time. I don't know why. I can do anything that any other man would do to win his favor, win his sexuality, win his love. But I cannot compete with a woman in a lot of ways, I guess.

DE: How?

B: Sexually, maybe.

DE: How so?

B: Well, never having had sex with a woman, I couldn't tell you. Maybe it's fear of the unknown. That was my prejudice — very much so. Although I had a few lesbian friends and they would stay my lesbian friends as long as they never tried to sexually turn to me or to a lover of mine. But the LGA's — although one of the LGA's is married — the first Council meeting that I went to, I sat on the Council with a representative of the LGA's, and she sat there with her vest on the same as I, and she fought for her opinions and her representation the same as any other member on the Council. She wore her handcuffs; she wore her hankies. She was "one of the guys."

"Lesbians up here have expressed an interest in forming a lesbian leather club. So we are serving as a catalyst in getting representatives from the women's clubs up here. We're very interested in helping them form."

R: And that makes you "one of the girls."

DE: Right! Touche!

B: And now we're very protective of their clubs. They have since split and formed two clubs — the LGA's and the Foxes. We are very protective of their right to exist and be full and active members of the Council. And I think it took them to make me see a lot — in what lesbians, and also what drag queens and effeminate gay men, had to offer the gay society.

R: As was mentioned before, lesbians up here have expressed an interest in forming a lesbian leather club. So we are serving as a catalyst in getting representatives from the LGA's or the Foxes or both up here. They're very interested in coming up and helping them form.

DE: You know, Butch, what I still wonder about is the intensity of your feeling about women coming on to Ralph. Is that coming from an attitude of "women as less," or "women as not good enough"?

B: Maybe a lot of it stems from prejudice towards me. I'm a male nurse — a very looked down upon profession for a man. I had a nurse once ask me, "Oh, what made you become a nurse?" and I told her I got into it from being a hospital corpsman. And she told me she had a son and would never encourage him to go into nursing. And I asked her why, and she said, "I would want him to go into something that a real man would want to go into."

DE: But that stuff comes from real woman-hatred — that such a job is not good enough for a man. "Men should do better things." And hatred of gay men comes from the same thing, I think. "Only a gay man, not a real man, would do what a woman does, because that work is less valuable."

B: Yes, and just like women lawyers and male secretaries, for example, have to work twice as hard to be accepted.

DE: Do you feel there is any common ground between gay men and lesbians?

T: Definitely. We are both oppressed. Here in Portland we can see that by the acts of violence against us. Two women or two men can't walk down Congress Street holding hands without being called "queer," "lezzie," "faggot". We can work on that together — educating people.

B: We both are sharing a great deal of responsibility for educating the public. People in Provincetown have learned the lesson that you don't catch being gay. It's not something that rubs off.

DE: Oh, shucks. I always thought it did!

B: And we, as "blatant homosexuals," make it easier for closeted people to come out. We know how much of a homophobic phase people can go through, and how traumatic it is, simply because they've not had positive role models of being gay. By being a positive role model, whether as a gay male or lesbian, we are doing our own part in educating society.

DE: Where do you feel, as leather/levi/S&M men, you diverge from lesbians or lesbian-feminists? Where do you feel we sometimes work in opposition to each other?

R: I can't think of a thing to say on that.

T: As an individual, where I diverge is from the lesbian-feminist separatists. I don't believe in the separatist movement, whether it be lesbian or gay male. And I think we see that more in the lesbian community than in the gay male community.

DE: Don't you see the Harbor Masters as a pretty separatist group?

B: Yes. And we enjoy that. I think it's very unfortunate that women don't have a bar to go to of their own. Other major cities I've lived in have always had a woman's bar. They deserve it.

T: I don't see the Harbor Masters as such a separatist organization. I have to disagree with you. We are a part of the New England Council and we have accepted the lesbian S&M leather clubs. Many of us within the Harbor Masters associate outside of the Harbor Masters with women. I don't see it as much of a separatist thing as the lesbian separatists who want absolutely nothing to do with men — who won't even work in a place where there are men. I would not classify the Harbor Masters in any way, shape or form as separatist.

R: Except for the fact that we do not allow female members in our club as full members or as associates.

B: I would not want them either. I would very seriously encourage the women of Portland to start their own club here. I would help them in whatever way I could.

T: I have no qualms with separate club activities. When I think of separatism, I think of not speaking, not working, not talking to someone of the opposite sex.

DE: Well, I think separatism exists on a continuum. Would you like to see the Harbor Masters change in some way in terms of its role within the gay community? Do you have a vision for the future?

R: As far as I'm concerned, the Harbor Masters has reached a plateau that I'd like to see it stay at. As far as Portland goes, where we are the only club, I can't see a lot happening with us here in Portland. I'm in the club for the out-of-town socializing, or even in-town if there was another club. I have found in the club what I want. I want the availability of meeting other people for friendship. Other people are in the club for other reasons. Some are in it specifically for sex. Some are in it as a political outlet. Some are in it for an educational outlet. Butch is a little bit more politically-minded than myself.

B: As far as education, I think the Harbor Masters can do a lot more. There are many things we could divert our funds to. The relationship between the Gay People's Alliance and the Harbor Masters has been very strong, I think, over the past year. That's been a very good thing. I would like to see the Harbor Masters grow with more real solid individuals so that if someone doesn't want to be politically active, we'd have enough people who do. I'd like to see us have enough people who want to be politically active, who are interested in education, who are interested in organizing events. I'd like to see us be large enough to be diverse enough to go into all those different areas.

T: I basically joined for brotherhood, for the social aspect. With my background as an educator and a counselor, I like people and I can see in the future using some of those tools within the club in helping other people learn about themselves. I don't have any specific goals, per se, for the club. I would hate to see the club get too large, because I think a large club is very unruly and I don't think you can accomplish as much and be as close. I would want it to stay small. If there were more people who'd want it, then I'd hope another club would form. I agree with Ralph. I think an important aspect of the club is to go out of town, to meet more people, to come back refreshed, to come back with new ideas, new sex. It's great.

DE: Is there anything else that anyone would like to say?

R: Diane, I'm curious. What's your impression now of the Harbor Masters? What did you expect before you walked in here?

DE: Well, I'm sitting here thinking how I walked in with a lot of stereotypes in my head. I expected you all to be harsher — to look harsher, more severe, to act harsher. And I, of course, expected to walk in seeing shackles on the wall, a rack. (Laughter). I did not expect to walk in and see you, Ralph, decorating wedding cakes. And, I walked in feeling nervous — nervous because I'm a woman and I had this image in my head that you'd detest talking with a woman about this stuff. I think that was because of a lot of the things I had heard about the Harbor Masters — the rumors, the images some people have in their heads about the group. I had those same images. But, you shattered a lot of that. I do wonder how the interview might have been different if a man had done it.

R: Well, do you want to see our rack?

August 20, 1984 continued

powerful developed bodies. Later when a Coalition member, seated next to the father on the extremely crowded Courtroom benches, politely asked him to spell his daughter's last name (a very difficult one), he defensively asked, "What for? What're you going to use it for?" and did not comply. However his body language did not change despite this interaction. In fact, many Coalition members and supporters of the offenders continued to stand or sit, squeezed side by side for hours in apparent peaceful tolerance of each other.

Cross-Examination

The long day of testimony was punctuated by the three defense attorneys' disciplined, polite but insistent authority to cross-examine. Among the highlights of their cross-examination of witnesses were:

— Their efforts to depict the violence as manslaughter, at worst, rather than murder.

— Their efforts to obtain from the state medical examiner an admission that Charlie might not have died of drowning (See Sidebar.)

— Their efforts to discredit Roy as a witness (e.g. he had incorrectly reported to the police 4 rather than 3 attackers; had he possibly learned that Charlie couldn't swim on some occasion other than the night of July

7th; had he (and Charles) been abusing any substances earlier on that night; when hesitating to pull the fire alarm, had Roy been too far away from the violence to hear Charlie's voice; and so forth.)

In summing up, Attorney Martha Harris argued for the defense that the attackers had no conscious object to cause Charlie's death. In order to be tried for murder, they would have had to be practically certain that their action would lead to death. Instead, their action was non-intention, non-knowing.

The Judge's Power

Finally, there was the power of the Court. At the conclusion of the day's testimony Judge Cox ruled that there was "probable cause" to believe "that one of the juvenile crimes a person may be bound over for did take place." Therefore the hearing would continue — into Part II, as it were — on Sept. 14-15. At that time three legal tests would have to be satisfied in order for the attackers to be tried as adults: in three separate hearings the Court would consider: the socioeconomic background of each; their characters; and the dispositional alternatives available to the Court.

Regardless of his decision, Judge Cox had announced on July 31st that it was extremely unlikely he would be conducting the trial.

Bangor Schools: Coming Out For Equality

By Katherine Wilkins

Announcements

Charlie Howard's murder has changed my life. How many of our stories start that way now? I knew Charlie from church. I spoke my rage at his vigil. I attended Coalition meetings, went to court wearing a white shirt and a purple ribbon. I talked to the media — local and national, radio, T.V., press. That was the scary part — having people I know say, "I saw you on T.V. last night," and wondering if they know I'm a lesbian, and if they know, do they care? Finally, I just couldn't stand it anymore. I had been out to my family and sort of de facto out at church and in the community for years, but fear of losing my job kept me from being right upfront about my sexuality whenever and wherever I wanted to be.

Charlie's "I am what I am" courage infected me. My lover and I agreed to both come out to our bosses. It was a mutual decision. I know some other couples where one partner is ready and the other isn't. I can imagine what a crisis that could be. But we were both ready. She came out first just because my boss was on vacation and hers wasn't. She survived and is still employed, although there have been some problems, but that is her story.

Finally, my boss, Dr. Arthur Pierce, the Superintendent of Schools in Bangor, got back from vacation and I came out to him. I'm a high school teacher at Bangor High School where Charlie's assailants attended school. For years I had believed that the last profession on earth in which one could be openly gay or lesbian was public school teaching. But I decided that, for my sanity, and because I wanted to get to my boss before the rumors and complaints did, but also for Charlie, I would risk losing my job. I'm still employed. Dr. Pierce, though I didn't know it before I went with knocking knees into his office, is active in the American Civil Liberties Union and really supports gay rights. He attended a workshop several years ago where our own Richard Steinman spoke and he learned a lot. I've since come out to my Special Education Director and to my Principal. Both of these encounters went well, too. I know lots could still go wrong. I also know there aren't many school systems where it's safe to be open, but I'm not going back into the closet; I'd sooner clean chicken coops.

What's been happening at the Bangor School Committee meetings this summer intersects with my coming out story, but certainly there's no cause-effect relationship. At the first School Committee meeting after Charlie's murder, Ann Schonberger, a UMO professor and Bangor parent, suggested that something needed to be done about homophobia in the schools. The School Committee appointed two of its members, William Baker and Judy Guay, and Superintendent Pierce to a Tolerance Subcommittee. Ann Schonberger came directly to the Coalition meeting that same night and told us what had happened. The

Coalition began to monitor the work of the Tolerance Subcommittee and to support their efforts to address homophobia in the schools. As of September 10, the following action has been taken.

The School Committee adopted a statement saying, in essence, that homophobia and harassment would be reprimanded and that "our public schools should foster differing ideas and reflect various values and lifestyles." The statement also explicitly said, "We are specially concerned about the rights of gays and lesbians..." This was sent to all school staff. The School Committee also approved Dr. Pierce's organizing a series of in-service programs for school staff during the year to address prejudice, especially homophobia. At its last meeting, the School Committee gave a first endorsement to a policy statement adopted from the above communique, but more generally worded. The policy statement will require a second vote to make it part of the Bangor Schools Policy Manual. That will be decided at the September 17 meeting. The School Committee has taken a preliminary vote to add language regarding sexual orientation to both its equal employment and equal educational opportunity policies. This action is the most substantive of the Subcommittee's proposals. It is, in essence, a school system gay rights bill. It has been referred to the school department's attorney and will probably be coming before the September 17 meeting for enactment also. It will take two separate votes to become policy. It has occurred to me that unless the School Committee passes its revised equal employment policy or unless a gay rights bill passes the legislature, I am only safe in my present school system and with my present superintendent. That's just another graphic illustration of why we must all work for passage of such a bill.

The Coalition is continuing to attend School Committee meetings and speak up for our position. This has become increasingly important since Rev. Buddy Frankland, an avowed homophobe, has become alarmed at what the School Committee is doing and has brought his flock to meetings to help return the schools to "morality". One of them spoke up in fear of the licentious behavior that the School Committee's actions would encourage in the corridors of Bangor High School. We're trying to make sure that religious leaders such as professors at Bangor Theological Seminary who are not homophobic speak to the School Committee too. The Coalition has also bought a small collection of gay and lesbian books with the help of New Leaf Books in Rockland to be given as a gift to Bangor High School. We plan to encourage the Bangor Public Library to purchase gay and lesbian materials.

To conclude on a personal note, Charlie Howard's murder seems to have moved gays and lesbians in Bangor

either further out or back into the closet. I know one gay man who is now dating women. Two lesbians packed up hastily and left town when they heard about Charlie. One teacher in a nearby town was harassed out of her job this summer. Another has become physically ill, she is so fearful for her job. Then there are those of us who never thought we'd be out. But out we are. I dreamed for years about all the things I'd do if only... It always was "when my ship comes in" kind of fantasy. Well, my ship's at the dock. I hardly know how to start unloading. Thanks, Charlie.

Apuzzo

continued from page 1

Democratic Party talking in thematic language could conceivably expect us to sense that they were committed to our issues. I pushed very hard to have that in three major media markets — New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles — hoping that the media would make enough of a stink that the Democratic Party would listen. In New York, the Daily News headline read 'Gay Warn Dems: Don't Forget Us.'

When we met to draft the actual platform they were very clear that they did not want us to go for the words 'gay and lesbian'...By that time the Democratic Party had committed itself to AIDS funding, to non-discrimination in employment, in the military, and in immigration, but no place did it say 'gay and lesbian'...We ended up writing a specific plank which said in essence that the Democratic Party went on record as opposing the recent appeals to prejudice and was opposed to the kind of violence that existed toward racial minorities, religious minorities, ethnic minorities, and gays and lesbians...You have to be willing to push it to the logical limits — and then push it a little more."

On highlights of the Democratic Convention:

"There were three very exciting moments for me. One was Mario's keynote. I liked him calling the Democratic Party to conscience... Second was Jesse Jackson's speech. He really touched people in a very, very, fine way. I was a skeptic about Jackson. I still feel his 'rainbow coalition' never had any lavender in it. It went from mauve to purple...And the third moment was Geraldine Ferraro's nomination. Ed Koch was one of the low points."

On Anti-Gay Violence

"One reason I got interested in violence against gays was a political incident in San Francisco involving a fellow named Reverend Zone. Reverend Zone circulated a petition to execution homosexuals. The Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in San Francisco documented that violence against gays went up 300% after that petition. It was very clear to me that that kind of public advocacy against homosexuals results in people feeling it is okay to fag-bash..."

One of the major recommendations as a result of our anti-gay and lesbian violence survey is that it's imperative that we get into the schools and teach young people that their prejudice, against whatever group, is the stuff that kills those people. Prejudice is not some latent benign emotional response, it's there to be detonated and a guy with an earring and an affected manner is enough to detonate it...

You can't preach hatred and not expect it to come home to roost. If you preach homophobia, you're going to have young kids think they can push a gay man off a bridge...

I think one of the major elements of child abuse is to teach a child to hate. If gays and lesbians who are parents taught our children to hate straight people, we would be considered unfit parents. Why is it that straight people are allowed to teach their children to

Canadian Singer-Songwriter Ferron will appear Oct. 27 at Colby College (Wadsworth Gym) at 8:00 pm. Tickets \$5. in advance, \$6. at the door, \$2. for children from: The Women's Group, Roberts Union, Colby College, Waterville, ME. 04901. Childcare available by reservation. Call 873-4299.

The Good Day Market Cooperative, 155 Brackett St. in Portland will celebrate National Coop Month in October with a series of special events. Included are the 2nd Annual Running Race on Saturday, October 6, a Contradance on Friday, October 19, and Kids Day on Saturday, October 20 (see calendar for details). There will be special sale items during the month and live music and free samples on Saturday mornings. Call 772-4937 for info.

Mainly Men VI will be held October 12 through 14 in West Gardiner, Maine. The twice yearly conference is about "men exploring traditional and changing views of masculinity". Scheduled workshops include: men's health, sexual politics in man-to-man relationships, masturbation, and poetry. Call Eric (743-6536), Willy (474-8582), or Alan (767-2314) or write Harold Booth, 46 Winthrop St., Hallowell, Me. 04347, for information.

Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition in co-operation with the Bates Gay/Straight Alliance is sponsoring an evening of entertainment entitled "Un Spectacle Varie". It will be held at Bates College Alumni Gymnasium on Sunday, October 21, from 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Talent from Portland, Augusta, and Central Maine will be performing. Tickets are \$2. from CMG/LAC, P.O. Box 7919, Lewiston, Me. 04240 or from any CMG/LAC member. Door prizes. Special guest star: Tom Wilson Weinberg.

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CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Saturday, October 6

Women's Dance, Cornerstones, 54 Cumberland St., Brunswick, 9-12.
Good Day Market Running Race, Portland, registration 9:00 to 9:45, race at 10:00. 1st prize \$30 gift certificate.

Sunday, October 7

Sock Hop (50s and 60s), Papa Joe's, 80 Water St., Augusta, \$1. cover, prizes for jitterbug contest, best dressed — 7:00

Monday, October 8

Dale McCormick speaking on "Maine Gays and Lesbians in Politics", C.M.G./L.A.C., 2 Bates St., Lewiston, (second floor), 8:30.

Thursday, Oct. 11-Saturday, Oct. 13

Dan Wagoner and Dancers, Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave.

Sunday, October 14th

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church, Bangor, 1:00 pm.

Friday, October 19

Good Day Market Contradance, United Methodist Church, 17 Chestnut St., Portland, 8:30.

Saturday, October 20

"A Portrait of Oscar Wilde", portrayed by Steve Alexander, All Souls Church, 11 King St., Augusta.

Sunday, October 21

"Un Spectacle Varie", Bates College Gymnasium, 7:30. Sponsored by CMG/LAC, \$2, featuring Tom Wilson Weinberg.

Saturday, October 27

Halloween Party, Papa Joe's, 80 Water St., Augusta, masquerade, prizes for best costume, \$1. cover, 7:00 pm.

Sunday, October 28

Halloween Party, Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, cash prizes, judging at 10:30 pm.

Coming soon . . .

Sunday, November 11

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner plus drag show, Papa Joe's, 80 Water St., Augusta, advance tickets only (\$5.00), tickets at door (\$3.00) for show only, doors open 6:00, dinner at 6:30.

SUNDAYS

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1:00 pm, followed by a potluck.

Wilde-Stein Club — every Sunday, 7:00 pm, South Bangor Lounge, second floor, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine, Orono.

Interweave Augusta — last Sunday of the month, All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., 6:30 potluck and meeting.

Lesbian Support/Discussion Group: Tired of the bar scene? Come to a meeting, 6-8 PM at 92 Bedford St., U.S.M. All women in the community welcome. Sponsored by Women's Forum and GPA.

MONDAYS

Feminist Spiritual Community — every Monday, 7 pm, State Street Church, Portland.

C.M.G./L.A.C., 8:30 pm, 2 Bates St. (second floor), Lewiston.

Seacoast Gay Men — every Monday, 7:00 pm, 292 State St. (basement), Portsmouth, N.H.

TUESDAYS

Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 pm.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety — every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Our Paper staff meeting — every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Our Books, 4 Pine St., Portland. New members are welcome.

Alliance To Preserve Reproductive Choice — second Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7 pm.

WEDNESDAYS

The Gay Parents Support Group meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, at the USM Student Union, 92 Bedford St., Portland. For further information call (207) 780-4085 or (207) 772-4741.

Greater Bangor NOW — last Wednesday of the month, Bangor Public Library, Bangor, 7 pm, 989-3306 for information.

Bowdoin Gay-Straight Alliance, first and third Wednesdays when college is in session, 7:30, Chase Barn Chamber, call 729-8591.

Brunswick Men's Support Group, second and fourth Wednesdays when Bowdoin is in session, 7:30, call Curt or Steve, 729-8591, for location.

THURSDAYS

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 8 pm, Unitarian Church, Main St., Bangor.

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

CMG/LAC rap sessions, 2 Bates St. (second floor), Lewiston.

FRIDAYS

"Free To Bee" Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Friday, 7:30 to 8:30, All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta.

Gay People's Alliance — every Friday, 7 pm, 92 Bedford St., Portland — open meetings.

SATURDAYS

Interweave Bangor — third Saturday of the month, Unitarian Church, Main St., 6 pm, potluck and meeting.

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon — every Saturday, 8 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Free To Be Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous, every Saturday, 8:00 pm, The House, 60 Oak St. (corner Blake), Lewiston.

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Bates Gay/Straight Alliance
Bates College
Lewiston 04240

Bowdoin Gay/Straight Alliance
Bowdoin College
Brunswick 04011

Central Maine Gay/Lesbian
Awareness Coalition
P.O. Box 7917
Lewiston, Me. 04240

Feminist Spiritual Community
c/o State St. Church
159 State St.
Portland 04101

Free To Be Group
Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 215
Augusta, Me. 04330

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays
Box 1556, Station A
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canada

Gay Health Action Committee
P.O. Box 10723
Portland 04104

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church
425 Congress St.
Portland 04101

Gay Parents Support Group
780-4085 or 772-4741
Portland

Gay People's Alliance
92 Bedford St.
Portland 04102
780-4085

Greater Bangor NOW
P.O. Box 8026
Bangor, ME 04401

Greater Portland N.O.W.
P.O. Box 4012 Station A
Portland 04101

Interweave
P.O. Box 215
Augusta 04330

Lesbian/Gay Committee
Me. Chapter Nat'l Assoc.
of Social Workers
780-4120

Maine Health Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 7329 DTS
Portland 04112

Maine Lesbian Feminists
P.O. Box 125
Belfast 04915

Northern Lambda Nord
P.O. Box 990
Caribou 04736
NLN Gay Phoneline 896-5888

OUR PAPER
P.O. Box 10744
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Parents and Friends of Gays
P.O. Box 215
Augusta 04330

Seacoast Gay Men
P.O. Box 1394
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